


 splash!

quick facts on...

COMMERCIAL/RECREATION Water-Use Restrictions PHASE I

MARCH 2007

The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

NOTE

This document represents a summary of Phase I Water-Use Restrictions as they apply to **commercial/recreation use**. For more details, or for a copy of the Water Shortage Rule visit www.sfwmd.gov

Water Shortages

Water shortages and water conservation fall under the District's mission for water supply.

South Florida depends upon rainfall for its water supply. While South Florida gets an average of 52 inches of rain a year, the rainfall is seasonal, falling mostly in the summer and fall. The rainfall is also cyclical, meaning there are typically 10-year cycles of drought and flood.

To manage water shortages in an organized and efficient manner, the District has adopted a Plan and a Rule to restrict water use when supplies fall short. (Sec. 373.246, Florida Statutes; Ch. 40E-21, Florida Administrative Code). The goal is to protect the remaining supply by conserving water, preventing saltwater intrusion and assuring a fair distribution of available supplies.

Water Users

Water users are grouped into categories according to use – residential, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc. – and, according to the source from which the water comes. Residential users are the largest user-group affected by water restrictions.

Water-Use Restrictions

The District has established specific water-use restrictions according to the severity of the water shortage – PHASE I, **moderate**; PHASE II, **severe**; PHASE III, **extreme**; and, PHASE IV, **critical** – each requiring an increasingly larger reduction in water use. The District correlates each phase of the restrictions to the overall percentage of reductions needed.

Phase I water restrictions require water users to limit outdoor water use (see back page). These actions are intended to produce a 15 percent reduction in overall demand on our water resources by all users. Because

all users do not use the same amount of water, Phase I restrictions DO NOT mean that public utilities must reduce the amount of water they sell by 15 percent. It is up to ALL water users from all sources to get us to the overall 15 percent reduction.

General Guidelines

- All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
- Essential services involving public health and safety, such as fire-fighting, are not restricted.
- Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to the use of reclaimed water.
- Water-use restrictions generally DO apply to water from public utilities, private wells and all surface waters such as canals, lakes, ponds and rivers.
- Any exemptions from the restrictions must be through a formal process, that is, by obtaining a variance from the District.

Commercial/Recreation Water-Use Restrictions PHASE I Summary

Low volume water use for irrigation, mobile equipment washing, and hand watering is permitted anytime, with voluntary reduction.

Low volume methods include:

Irrigation: Using equipment designed to limit watering to plant requirement.

Mobile Equipment Washing: Using bucket and sponge or hose with automatic shut-off nozzle or low-volume pressure cleaner.

Pressure Cleaning: Using equipment designed to reduce inflow volume as accepted by industry standards.

Florida's Water
It's Worth Saving

Irrigation Systems (cleaning, adjusting, repairing) * Licensed Individual/Company

• Less Than One Acre:

Watering is permitted 10 minutes per zone per week.

• One Acre or More:

Watering is permitted one hour per acre per week.

* For recreation areas, golf courses, nurseries, and other agricultural uses refer to the Water Shortage Rule.

Landscape Watering Licensed Individual/Company

- Same schedule as residential landscape watering.

Pesticide Application

Licensed Individual/Company - Voluntary Reduction

- Application is permitted anytime. Pesticide technician must be on premises when water is applied.

Mobile Equipment Washing

Commercial Establishment - Voluntary Reduction

- Washing is limited to 75 gallons or less per vehicle for cars, vans, and small trucks (under 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight).
- Large trucks (over 10,000 lbs.) limited to 150 gallons or less.

Mobile Equipment Washing

Licensed Individual/Company - Voluntary Reduction

- Washing/detailing is permitted anytime using low volume methods.

Nurseries



- Low volume irrigation and hand watering is voluntarily reduced.
- **Inside** overhead irrigation is permitted daily, **8 a.m.-8 p.m.**
- **Outside** overhead irrigation is permitted daily, **7 p.m.-7 a.m.**

- Moisture stress relief for containerized nursery stock is permitted daily, 10 minutes per irrigation zone:
11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Flood irrigation is permitted 8 days per month.

Agriculture

- Low volume irrigation and hand watering is voluntarily reduced.
- Overhead irrigation (including portable volume guns) is permitted daily, **2 p.m.-10 a.m.**
- Moisture stress relief for field-grown citrus nursery stock is permitted daily, 10 minutes per irrigation zone:
11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (noon)
1:30 p.m.-2 p.m.
- Soil flooding is permitted ONLY for vegetable seed planting, rice planting, burning of sugarcane prior to harvest, and to permit harvesting of sod, with voluntary reduction.

Golf Courses

- 15 percent cutback from permitted allocation.

Recreation Areas

- Watering new or existing landscaping permitted during residential landscape watering schedule.
- Watering newly seeded and/or sprigged areas (planted for less than 30 days) is permitted daily, 10 minutes per irrigation zone:
11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
1:30 p.m.-2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
- Watering porous, non-vegetated recreation/sporting surfaces (baseball infields, clay tennis courts and racetracks) is permitted 10 minutes prior to each event.

Applications for Variances

Users seeking relief from water-use restrictions should file an application that states how the request qualifies for a variance and describes the nature of the relief desired. The applicant must provide reasonable assurances that the variance will not otherwise harm the water resources of the District. Users must conform to water use restrictions until the variance is granted. More information is available at www.sfwmd.gov/curre/watshort/varInstructions.html.

Find more water conservation tips, visit our web site at www.sfwmd.gov/conserv or call our Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876 to request more information.



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West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

SERVICE CENTERS

Big Cypress Basin/Naples
239-263-7615
Broward
954-713-3200
Florida Keys (Plantation Key)
305-853-3219 or 800-464-5067
Lower West Coast
239-338-2929 or 800-248-1201

Martin/St. Lucie
772-223-2600 or 800-250-4100
Miami-Dade
305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300
Okeechobee
863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200
Orlando
407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250
Palm Beach County
561-682-2283 or 800-432-2045